MoU for cooperation in Geo-Sciences between India and Canada

2468. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a MoU was signed between India and Canada to set up a framework for mutual co-operation in the fields of geo-sciences; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Mines, Government of India and the Department of Natural Resources, Government of Canada have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 1st April, 2003, with a view to facilitate bilateral cooperation in the field of Geo-sciences.

(b) The above MoU establishes a framework for cooperation concerning geo-sciences, on subjects of mutual interest *viz.* Environmental geology/geo-hazards; Economic Geology; Geological Mapping, Hydrocarbon basin analysis; Marine/coastal Geology; Exploration Geo-chemistry and Geo-physics; Geo-science information systems, including databases, publications; Remote sensing and data integration, including cartography; and other areas of interest to be mutually agreed upon by the participants.

Availability of Non-conventional products in the Market

2469. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:
SHRI R. K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic non-conventional energy products like solar cooking, solar panel lighting, etc. are readily available in markets for consumers;

(b) if so, whether non-conventional energy shops providing end user products have closed down in the past;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and